

Message Text

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ACTION OPIC-06

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FM AMEMBASSY ACCRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1528

INFO AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMCONSUL KADUNA

UNCLAS ACCRA 1867

FOR OPIC/HENDERSON FROM PARNELL

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EINV NI

SUBJ: WESTAM - NIGERIA

1. SEVERAL CHANGES IN SAPELE VISIT RESULTED FROM FINAL MEETING WITH FLEMING. MORNING AND AFTERNOON SCHEDULES HAVE BEEN REVERSED FOR FRIDAY, MARCH 26. (10:30 TOUR OF A T AND P, 2:30 TOUR OF LIFE FLOUR MILL AND WEST AFRICAN SHRIMPS). ROOM RESERVATIONS CONFIRMED WITH A T AND P. FLEMING WILL HANDLE ADVANCE PAYMENT IF REQUIRED. AVAILABILITY OF BOATS FOR HARBOR TOUR CONFIRMED. TRANSPORTATION FROM BENIN CITY TO SAPELE AND IN SAPELE MORE EXPENSIVE THAN ANTICIPATED. CHARGE IS NAIRA 150/DAY/BUS. HAD ORIGINALLY ANTICIPATED USE OF TWO BUSES. WITH USE OF FLEMING VEHICLES CAN GET BY WITH ONE. TRANSPORT COMPANY WILL ALSO CHARGE FOR FULL DAY SATURDAY DESPITE USE LESS THAN HALF DAY. FLEMING PROTESTED PERSONALLY BUT TO NO AVAIL AND FEELS ONLY ALTERNATIVE. THUS SAPELE TRANSPORTATION COST FOR ONE AND HALF DAYS, NAIRA 300 (DOL 480). FLEMING WILL MAKE ADVANCE PAYMENT AND OPIC REIMBURSE ON ARRIVAL UNLESS POSSIBLE CABLE FUNDS FLEMING IN ADVANCE. IF HE FINDS CHEAPER ALTERNATIVE WILL OF COURSE ACCEPT.

2. PASS LUBLIN: FLEMING, PARNELL ATTEMPTED TO MEET FLEMING LAWYER BUT LAWYER UNAVAILABLE. TOO MANY QUESTIONS REMAIN TO ENGAGE ONE AT THIS POINT. WILL COORDINATE WITH WARD AND UNCLASSIFIED

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BRESKY UPON RETURN.

3. POSSIBLE PROBLEM WITH TRANSPORTATION FROM KADUNA HAS ARISEN AT LAST MINUTE. LATEST CHECK OF KADUNA-LAGOS FLIGHTS REVEALED CHANGE IN SCHEDULE ALLOWING ONLY 50 MIN. LAYOVER AT LAGOS AIRPORT. UNDER NORMAL CONDITIONS IMPOSSIBLE TO DEPEND ON SUCH SHORT TIME TO CLAIM BAGGAGE FROM DOMESTIC TERMINAL AND CHECK THROUGH CUSTOMS EVEN WITH EXPEDITOR. RISK CAN BE CUT BY (A) REQUESTING CONNECTING AIRLINE TO HOLD FLIGHT IF NECESSARY (B) REQUIRING KADUNA TRAVELERS TO TAKE ONLY HAND LUGGAGE FOR OVERNIGHT STAY KADUNA. EMBASSY CAN CHECK BAGS THROUGH CUSTOMS AHEAD OF TIME AND NO DELAY WAITING FOR BAGGAGE AT DOMESTIC TERMINAL.

4. COMMENT: PEASHOCK WILL CONFIRM SCHEDULES AND RESERVATIONS WHEN NAMES PROVIDED. ASSUMING NO FURTHER CHANGES IN SCHEDULE RECOMMEND PROCEED WITH KADUNA SCHEDULE AS PLANNED TAKING ABOVE MEASURES TO LOWER RISK TO ACCEPTABLE LEVEL. ONLY ALTERNATIVE TO SCRUB KADUNA, WHICH IS UNACCEPTABLE AT THIS STAGE. PEASHOCK WILL ADVISE IF SITUATION WORSENS. HE WILL ADVISE OPIC AND KADUNA OF FINAL SCHEDULE AS SOON AS CONFIRMED. KADUNA AND FLEMING WILL RE-CONFIRM RETURN FLIGHTS RESPECTIVELY.

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